

RANGE EXTENSION OF LEPTODACTYLUS BUFONIUS

Recently I reported the presence of the chacoan batrachian Leptodactylus bufonius in the clayey soils of Jarilla, Alto Pen-
coso and Balde in San Luis, central Argentina (1955, Copeia (4):
291). The possibility was considered that this frog shares the
underground social burrows of the rodents of the Lagidium group
(vizcacheras) also found analogously in the true chacoan bioceno-
sis. I can state now that some of the rodent communities obser-
ved in this xeric area are those of Lagostomus maximus (vizcachas
pampeana); also there are many burrows of Galea (cuis) and Micro-
cavia (Cavidae of the Kerodon group) as in the plains of La Rio-
ja. The vegetation of the clayey ground between Jarilla and Bal-
de shows some chacoan elements, and the ecological chacoan featu-
res are accentuated by the true Lagostomus communities and charac-
teristic xerophilous flora. But the collecting station at Jar-
rilla does not mark the western edge of the range of Leptodacty-
lus bufonius at this latitude (33° 25' S). On December 14, 1955,
I found some subterranean nests and a few adult specimens of this
species in a small area of clayey soil alongside the national /
road 8-9 miles west of the Desaguadero River, Mendoza Province.
Thus, it is now apparent that Leptodactylus bufonius, once consi-
dered to be a chacoan species in Argentina (Vellard, 1948, Acta
Zool. Lilloana, 5: 171) actually occurs in the central xeric for-
mations southward and westward along with the relict chacoan /
floristic biocenoses into the piedmont area of Mendoza.

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Copeia 1957. 3: 233.